

MASTER OF
KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

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THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU

GOLDEN DAGGERS,
GLITTERING DOOM!
EVEN IF THE SON
OF FU MANCHU
DEFEATS HIS
SISTER'S ASSASSINS--

--EVIL HAS ALREADY FLOWERED FROM THE
DEATH SEED!



THE
MARVEL
BULLPEN PROUDLY
PRESENTS WHAT
WE FEEL IS AN
OUTSTANDING
ACHIEVEMENT
IN COMICS
ART.

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my **father** did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father. Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu**, the most insidiously evil man on earth...and that to **honor** him would bring nothing but **dishonor** to the spirit of my **name**.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: MASTER OF KUNG FU!™

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

DOUG MOENCH, PAUL GULACY, PABLO MARCOS, JOHN COSTANZA, PETRA G., ARCHIE GOODWIN
WRITER ARTIST INKER letterer COLORIST EDITOR

PART ONE (SHANG-CHI): THE DEATH SEED!

"I HAVE VOWED TO NEVER AGAIN **INTERFERE** WITH MY FATHER'S AFFAIRS. BUT EVENTS NOW **ELIMINATE ANY CHOICE**-- COMPEL ME TO **BREAK ALL VOWS**-- FOR I AM **TRAPPED** BETWEEN FORCES I CANNOT **CONTROL**, FORCES WHICH **CONTROL ME** AGAINST MY **WILL**. TO MOST, THESE FORCES WOULD REPRESENT **LOVE**. TO ME, THEY ARE **DEATH**.

C-75

"ON THE ONE SIDE IS MY **FATHER HIMSELF**, FLESH OF MY FLESH... **FU MANCHU**."

"A FIERCE STRUGGLE RAGES **BETWEEN THEM**, WITH ME LOCKED IN THE **CENTER** OF THAT STRUGGLE."

"AND ON THE **OTHER**, MY **SISTER--FAH LO SUEE**, THE **DAUGHTER OF FU MANCHU**."



"I HAVE **PLACED MYSELF** IN THIS TRAP FOR **TWO REASONS**--THE **SAFETY** OF **LEIKO**..."

"...AND THE **REALIZATION** OF MY **LOVE** FOR HER."

"LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND-- IN THE HOME OF A MAN NAMED **TARRANT**-- A MANUFACTURER OF **BOMBS**. TWO ASSASSINS STAND READY... AS MY **SISTER**, WHOM I HAVE NEVER TRULY KNOWN, **SPEAKS**...

YOU HAVE BEEN **WARNED** OF THE IMMINENT WAR BETWEEN MY FORCES AND THE FORCES OF OUR **FATHER**, SHANG-CHI. A PITY YOU DID NOT **HEED** THOSE WARNINGS.

BOLD...

...**KIMBA**. SLAY MY BROTHER'S **FRIEND**.

THEN... SLAY MY **BROTHER**.

SO THE **GOLDEN DAGGER SECT**-- AS WELL AS THE "**ORIENTAL EXPEDITERS**" GROUPS-- SERVES YOU, MY **SISTER**... AND **NOT** OUR FATHER.

"SHE SAYS **NOTHING**. HER EYES **SPARKLING** ABOVE A **CRUEL SMILE**."

WELL, FANCY THIS! MY **EXECUTION** ORDERED BY THE DAUGHTER OF **FU MANCHU**, **FAH LO SUEE** HERSELF. SOME **SISTER** YOU'VE GOT, **CHI**.

LOOK LIKE WE'RE IN FOR A RATHER POINTED LESSON IN **SIBLING RIVALRY**-- AS MUCH AS I'VE COME TO RESPECT YOUR **BRAWLING STYLE**, THIS MARTIAL ARTS RIGMAROLE TENDS TO BECOME **ANNOYING** WHEN ONE IS ON THE **OTHER SIDE**.

WORSE PART OF IT IS THE **RITUAL PERIOD OF GRACE**. I SUPPOSE IT MAKES **SENSE** TO SIZE UP YOUR OPPONENT AND ALL...

...BUT IT JUST **GNAWS** ON MY **NERVE-ENDINGS**.

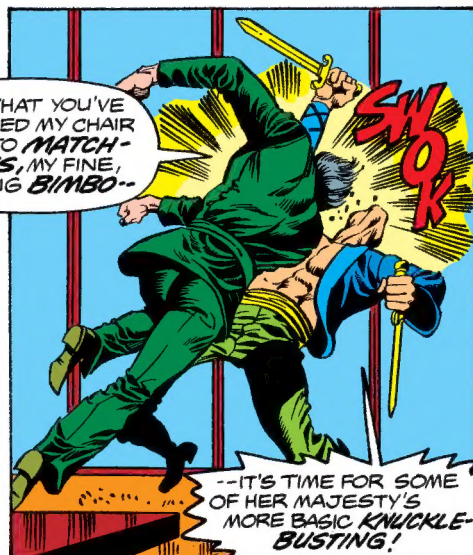
TAKE A **SLICE** AT OLD **CLIVE**.

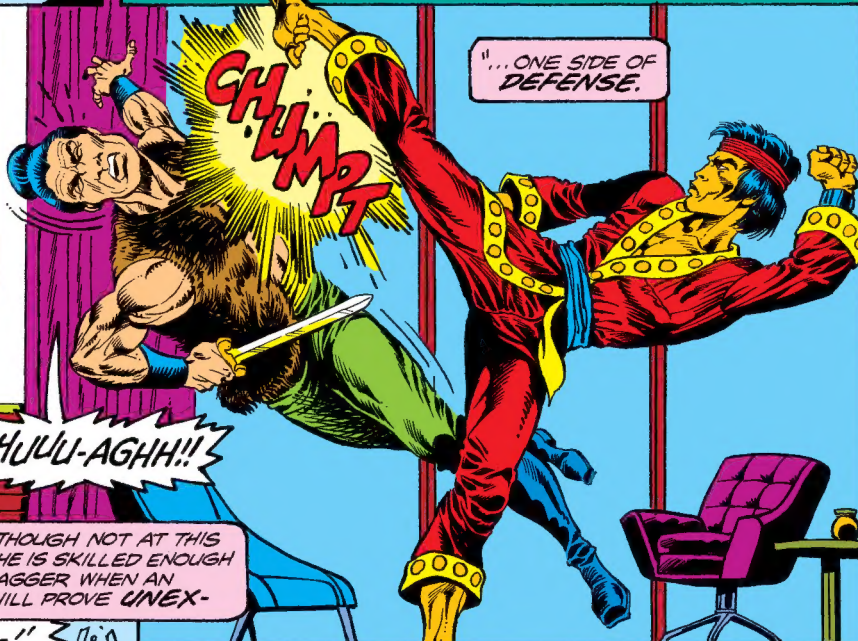
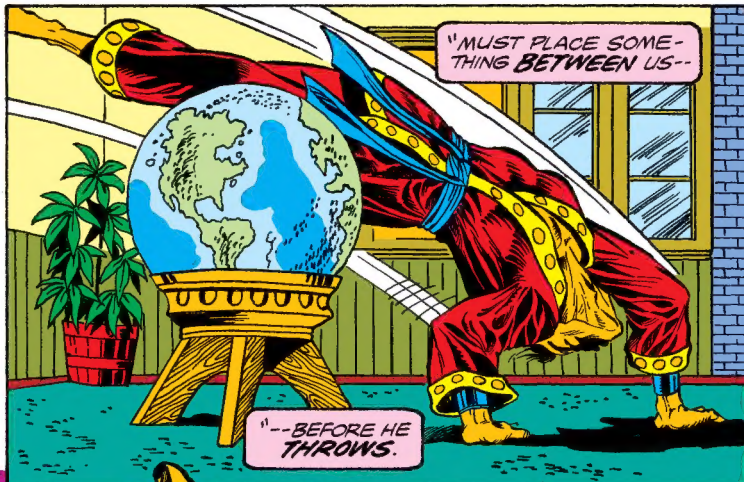
COME ON, **BIMBO**--OR WAS THAT **KIMBA**? YOU'VE GOT YOUR PRETTY **GOLD DAGGERS**. WHAT ARE YOU **WAITING FOR**?

"MUST NOT ALLOW MYSELF TO **SHARE** RESTON'S **IMPATIENCE**."

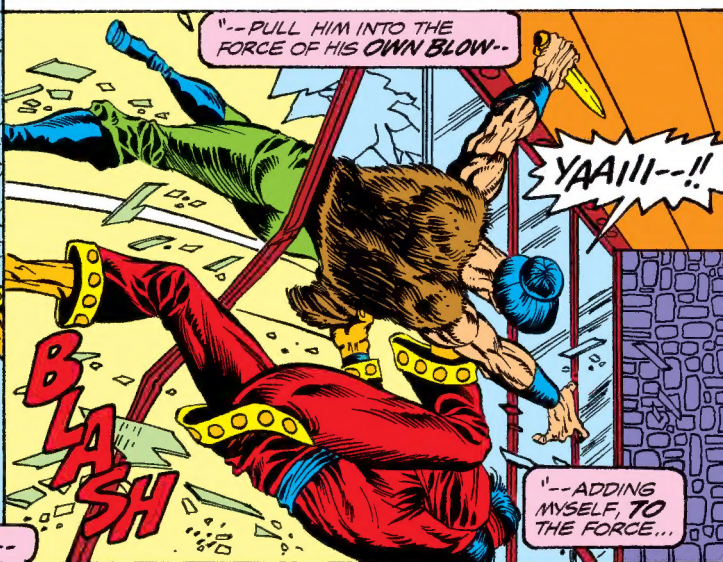
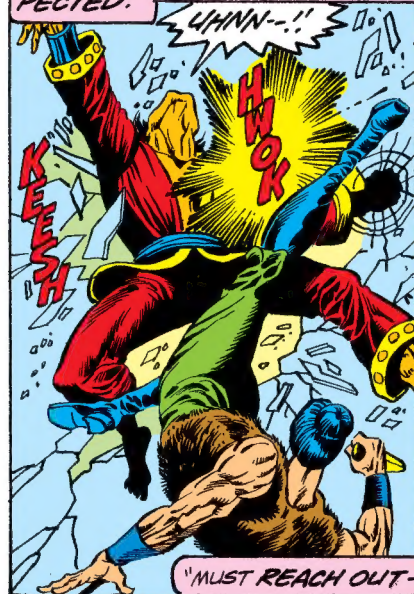
"MUST GAUGE MY OPPONENT'S **CONFIDENCE**-- DISCERN HIS DEGREE OF **SKILL**-- WAIT FOR HIS **ATTACK**, AND TURN THAT **ATTACK AGAINST HIM**."

"MY **SISTER** MOVES TO A POSITION OF **SAFETY**... THERE TO **WATCH**."





"BUT AS EXPECTED-- THOUGH NOT AT THIS PRECISE INSTANT--! HE IS SKILLED ENOUGH NOT TO RELY ON HIS DAGGER WHEN AN ELEMENTAL ATTACK WILL PROVE UNEXPECTED."





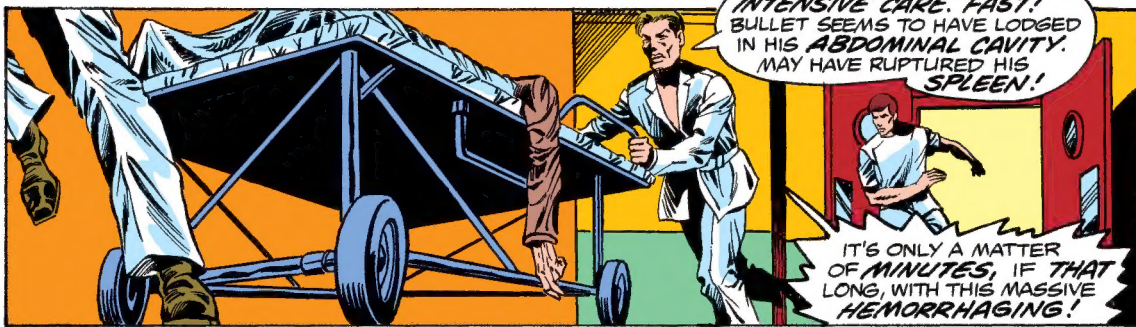
OH, MY GOD! WHAT HAVE I **DONE?**
HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO
CARELESS?!

DR. PETRIE!
GOOD LORD!
WHAT'S
HAPPENED
IN HERE?!

SNEED--SHOCK-WAVE,
HE--HE SEIZED MY **GUN--**
AND BEFORE I COULD STOP
HIM HE--HE SHOT
NAYLAND!

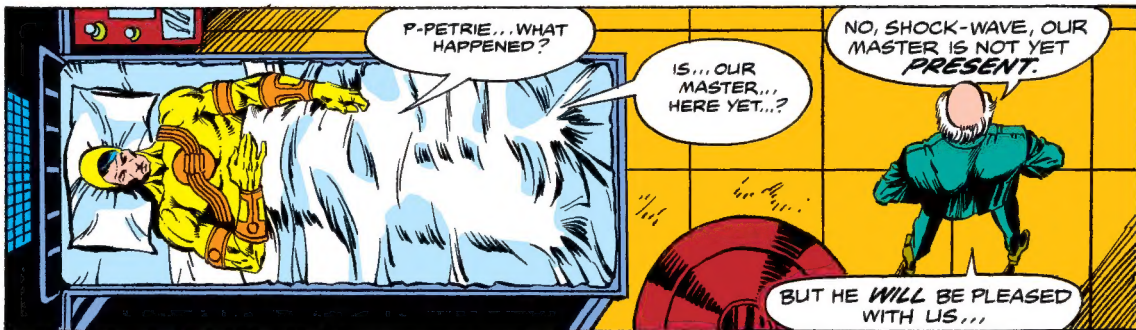
HURRY, INTERNS!
I'LL STAY HERE WITH
SNEED! I'VE GOT HIM UNDER
CONTROL NOW-- BUT YOU'VE
GOT TO GET NAYLAND TO AN
OPERATING TABLE--
QUICKLY!!

WE'LL DO OUR
BEST, DR. PETRIE.
YOU MAY **COUNT**
ON IT.



INTENSIVE CARE. FAST!
BULLET SEEMS TO HAVE LODGED
IN HIS **ABDOMINAL CAVITY.**
MAY HAVE RUPTURED HIS
SPLEEN!

IT'S ONLY A MATTER
OF **MINUTES,** IF THAT
LONG, WITH THIS MASSIVE
HEMORRHAGING!

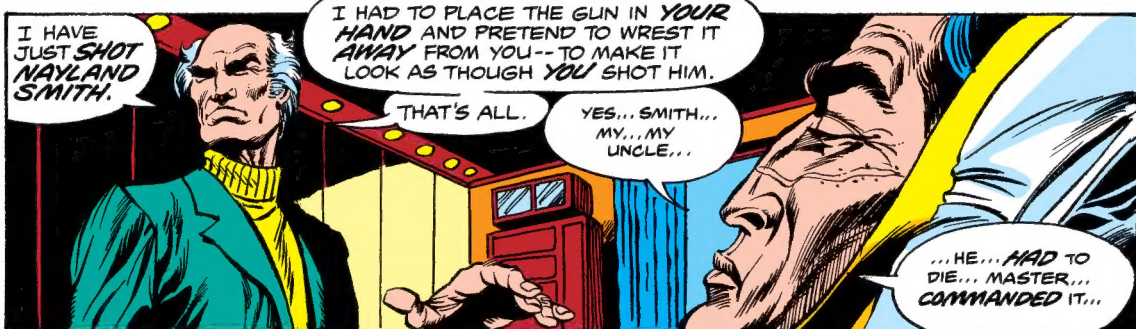


P-PETRIE...WHAT
HAPPENED?

IS... OUR
MASTER...
HERE YET...?

NO, SHOCK-WAVE, OUR
MASTER IS NOT YET
PRESENT.

BUT HE **WILL** BE PLEASED
WITH US...



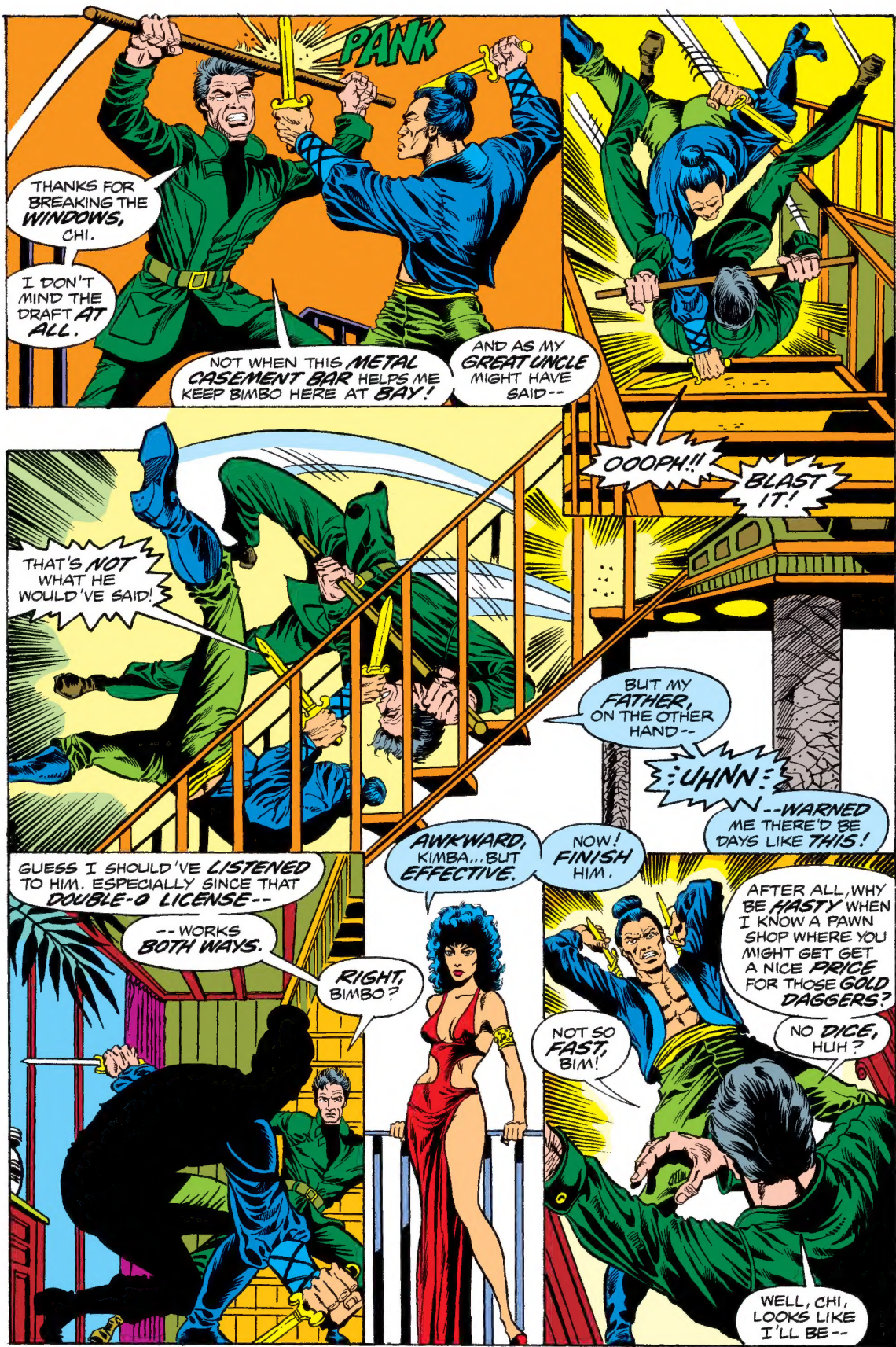
I HAVE
JUST **SHOT**
NAYLAND
SMITH.

I HAD TO PLACE THE GUN IN **YOUR**
HAND AND PRETEND TO WREST IT
AWAY FROM YOU-- TO MAKE IT
LOOK AS THOUGH **YOU** SHOT HIM.

THAT'S ALL.

YES... SMITH...
MY... MY
UNCLE...

... HE... **HAD** TO
DIE... MASTER...
COMMANDED IT...



PANK

THANKS FOR BREAKING THE WINDOWS, CHI.

I DON'T MIND THE DRAFT AT ALL.

NOT WHEN THIS METAL CASEMENT BAR HELPS ME KEEP BIMBO HERE AT BAY!

AND AS MY GREAT UNCLE MIGHT HAVE SAID--

OOOPH!!

BLAST IT!

THAT'S NOT WHAT HE WOULD'VE SAID!

AWKWARD, KIMBA... BUT EFFECTIVE.

NOW! FINISH HIM.

BUT MY FATHER, ON THE OTHER HAND--

UHHN

--WARNED ME THERE'D BE DAYS LIKE THIS!

GUESS I SHOULD'VE LISTENED TO HIM. ESPECIALLY SINCE THAT DOUBLE-O LICENSE--

--WORKS BOTH WAYS.

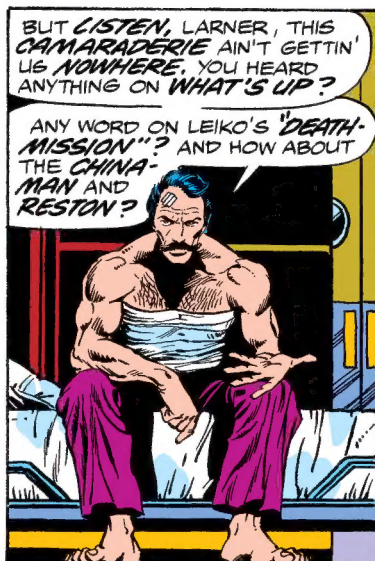
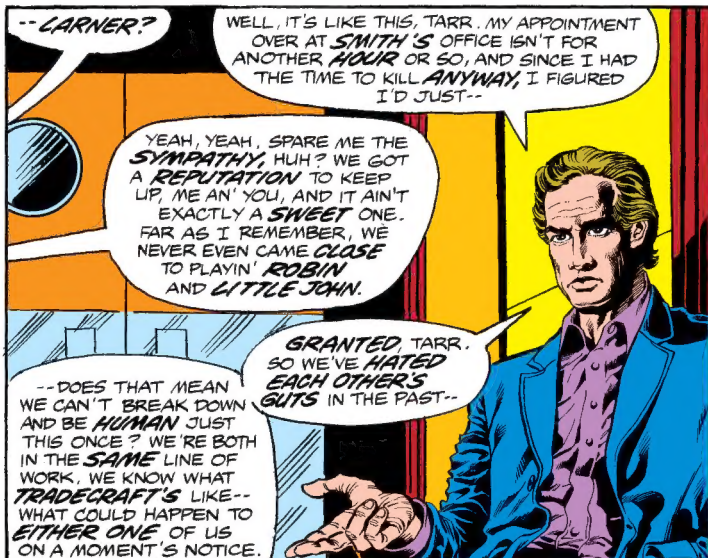
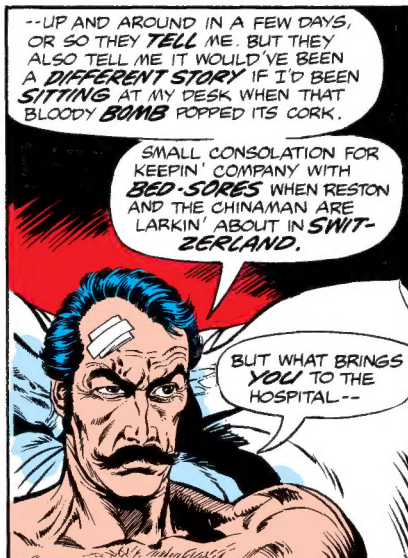
RIGHT, BIMBO?

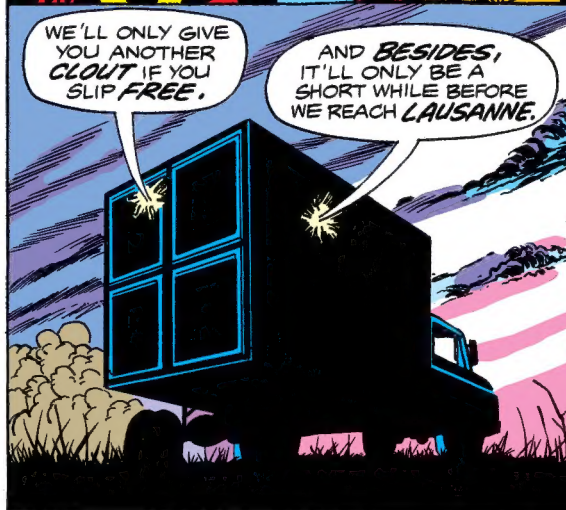
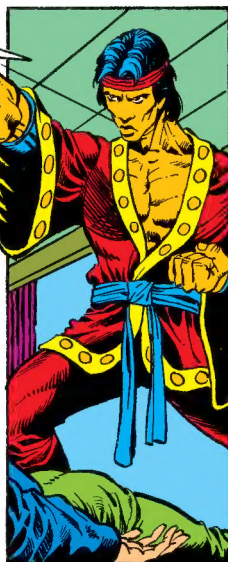
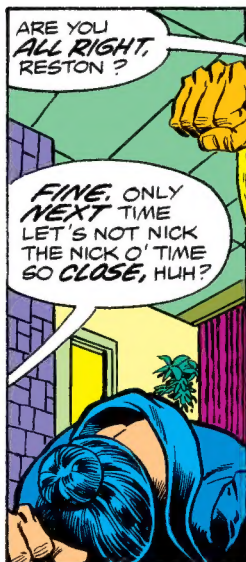
WELL, CHI, LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE--

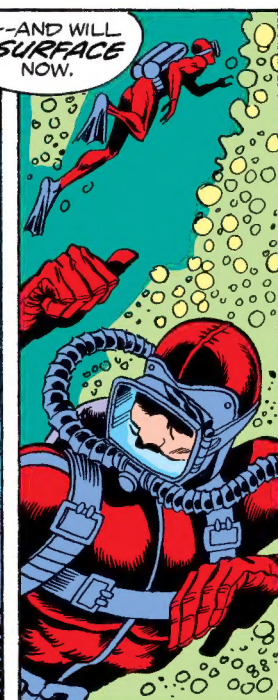
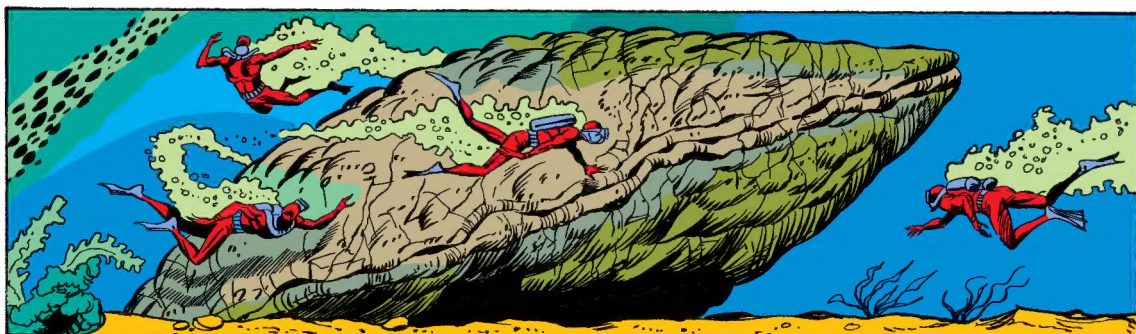
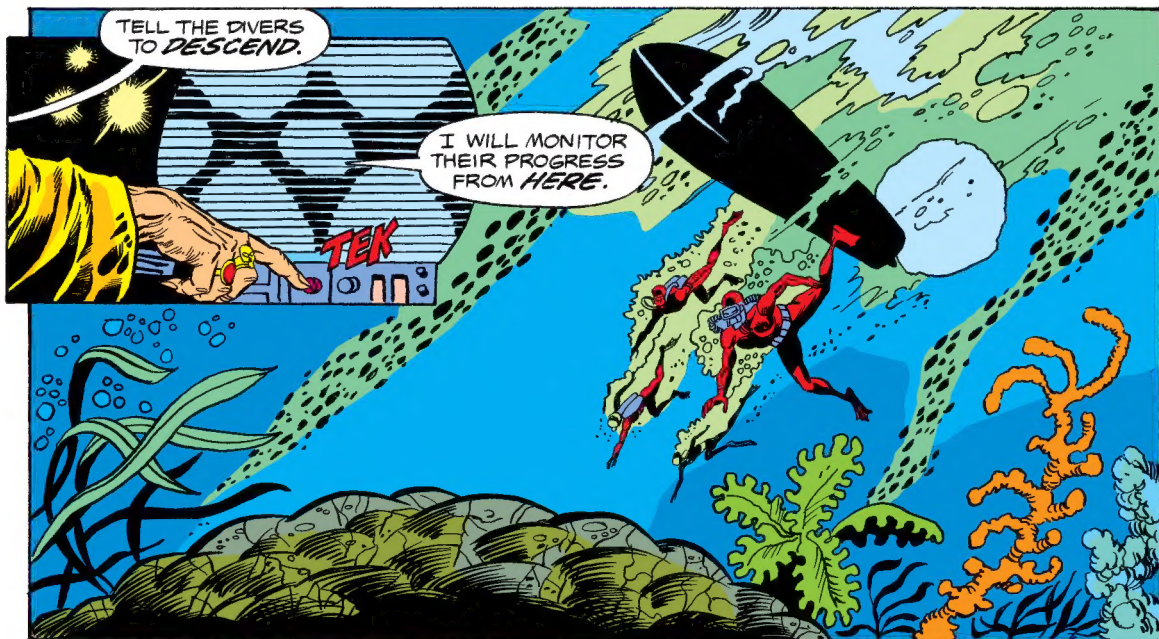
AFTER ALL, WHY BE HASTY WHEN I KNOW A PAWN SHOP WHERE YOU MIGHT GET A NICE PRICE FOR THOSE GOLD DAGGERS?

NO DICE, HUH?

NOT SO FAST, BIM!









HERE,
CHI!!



"I SPIN,
FORGETTING
LEIKO--"

"--GRASP--"

"--SPIN
AGAIN--"

SLUMP

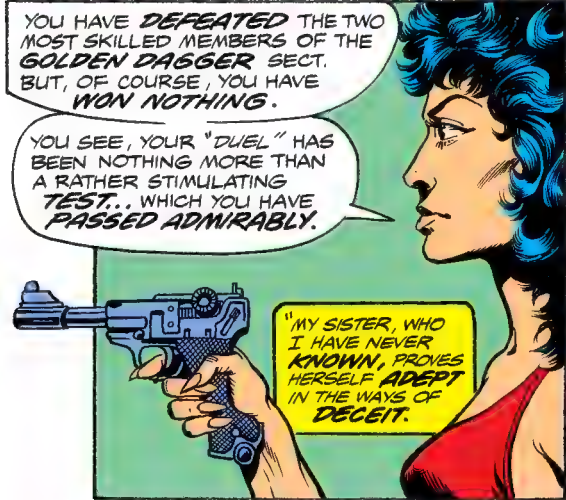


HUU-
AHHH!!

"AND
FINISH
IT."

SKOKT

WELL
DONE, MY
BROTHER.



YOU HAVE **DEFEATED** THE TWO
MOST SKILLED MEMBERS OF THE
GOLDEN DAGGER SECT.
BUT, OF COURSE, YOU HAVE
WON NOTHING.

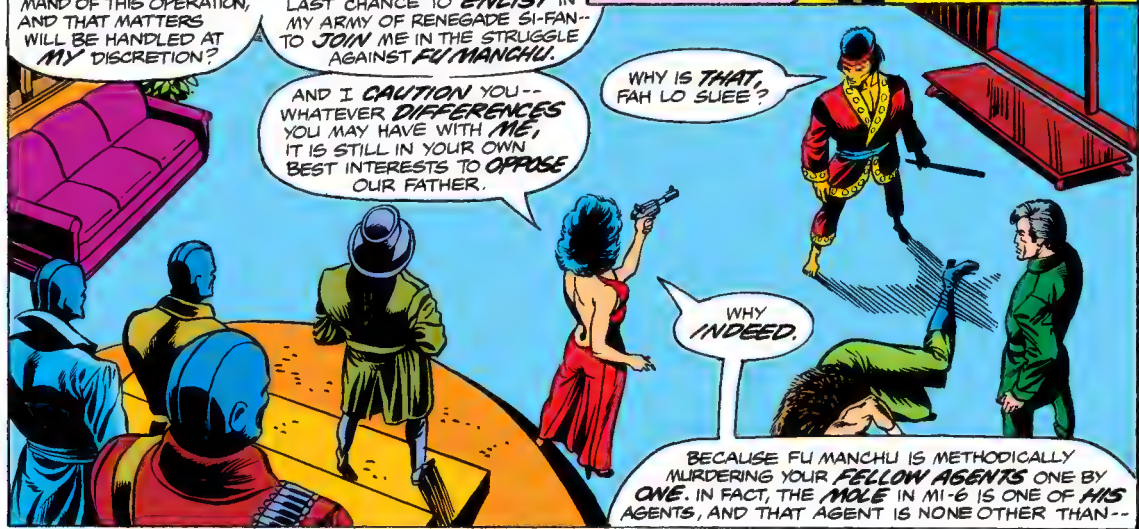
YOU SEE, YOUR "DUEL" HAS
BEEN NOTHING MORE THAN
A RATHER STIMULATING
TEST... WHICH YOU HAVE
PASSED ADMIRABLY.

"MY SISTER, WHO
I HAVE NEVER
KNOWN, PROVES
HERSELF **ADEPT**
IN THE WAYS OF
DECEIT."

OR HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN, TARRANT,
THAT I AM IN COM-
MAND OF THIS OPERATION,
AND THAT MATTERS
WILL BE HANDLED AT
MY DISCRETION?

NOW THEN, MY BROTHER,
SINCE YOU HAVE **PASSED** YOUR
TEST... I WILL OFFER YOU ONE
LAST CHANCE TO **ENLIST** IN
MY ARMY OF RENEGADE SI-FAN--
TO JOIN ME IN THE STRUGGLE
AGAINST **FU MANCHU.**

AND I **CAUTION** YOU--
WHATEVER **DIFFERENCES**
YOU MAY HAVE WITH **ME**,
IT IS STILL IN YOUR OWN
BEST INTERESTS TO **OPPOSE**
OUR FATHER.



WHAT'S GOING
ON HERE? WHY
AREN'T THESE
TWO DEAD YET?

WE'RE RUNNING
LOW ON **TIME.**

SILENCE,
TARRANT.

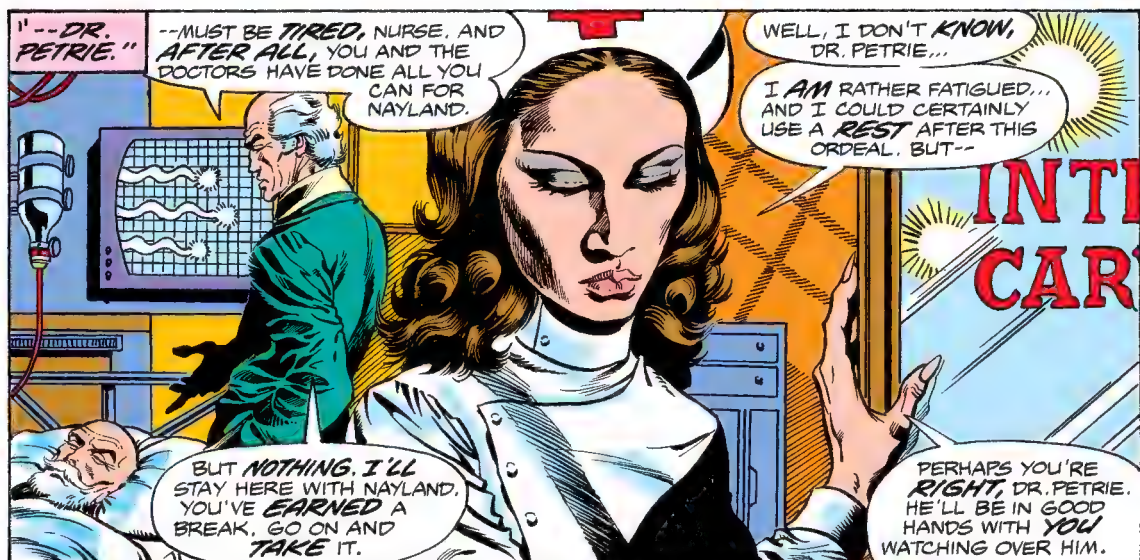
"TARRANT?
HE HAS ENTERED
THROUGH THE
FAR DOOR..."

"...AND HIS
VOICE, THOUGH
MUFFLED, IS
STRANGELY...
FAMILIAR."

WHY IS THAT,
FAH LO SUEE?

WHY
INDEED.

BECAUSE **FU MANCHU** IS METHODICALLY
MURDERING YOUR **FELLOW AGENTS** ONE BY
ONE. IN FACT, THE **MOLE** IN MI-6 IS ONE OF **HIS**
AGENTS, AND THAT AGENT IS NONE OTHER THAN--



"--DR. PETRIE."

--MUST BE TIRED, NURSE, AND AFTER ALL, YOU AND THE DOCTORS HAVE DONE ALL YOU CAN FOR NAYLAND.

WELL, I DON'T KNOW, DR. PETRIE...

I AM RATHER FATIGUED... AND I COULD CERTAINLY USE A REST AFTER THIS ORDEAL. BUT--

BUT NOTHING. I'LL STAY HERE WITH NAYLAND. YOU'VE EARNED A BREAK. GO ON AND TAKE IT.

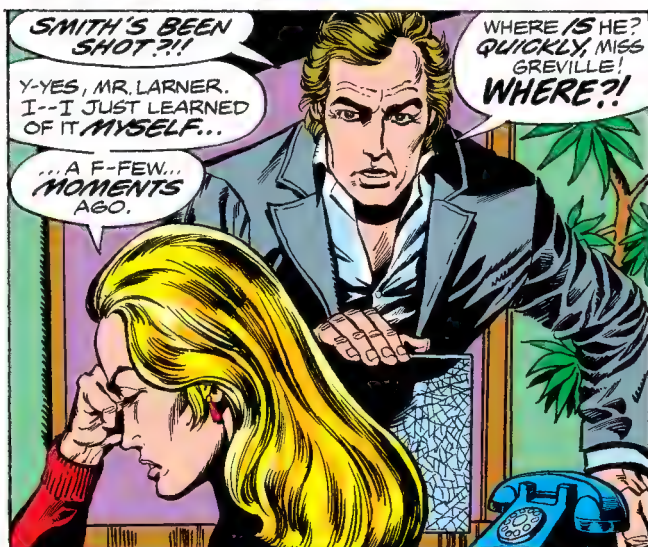
PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT, DR. PETRIE. HE'LL BE IN GOOD HANDS WITH YOU WATCHING OVER HIM.



PETRIE?!! YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL US THE MOLE IS PETRIE-- AND HE'S WORKING FOR FU MANCHU?!

YES... AND THE GOOD DR. PETRIE'S STATUS IN THE MI-6 HIERARCHY IS AN ADVANTAGEOUS ONE, MAKING HIM ENTIRELY CAPABLE OF DESTROYING THE AGENCY FROM WITHIN.

INDEED, FROM ALL INDICATIONS, HE MAY HAVE ALREADY MURDERED BLACK JACK TARR AND SIR DENIS NAYLAND--

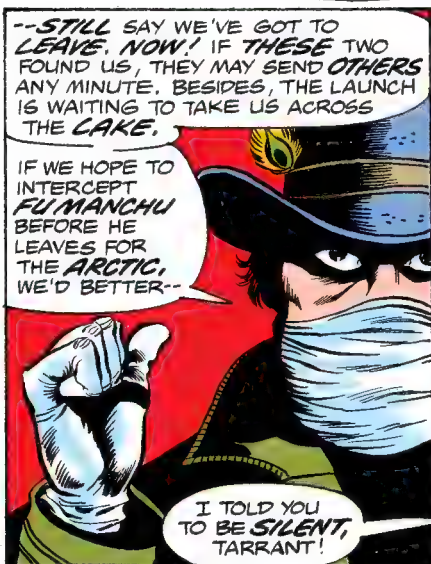


SMITH'S BEEN SHOT?!!

Y-YES, MR. LARNER. I--I JUST LEARNED OF IT MYSELF...

...A F-FEW... MOMENTS AGO.

WHERE IS HE? QUICKLY, MISS GREVILLE! WHERE?!



--STILL SAY WE'VE GOT TO LEAVE. NOW! IF THESE TWO FOUND US, THEY MAY SEND OTHERS ANY MINUTE. BESIDES, THE LAUNCH IS WAITING TO TAKE US ACROSS THE LAKE.

IF WE HOPE TO INTERCEPT FU MANCHU BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR THE ARCTIC, WE'D BETTER--

I TOLD YOU TO BE SILENT, TARRANT!



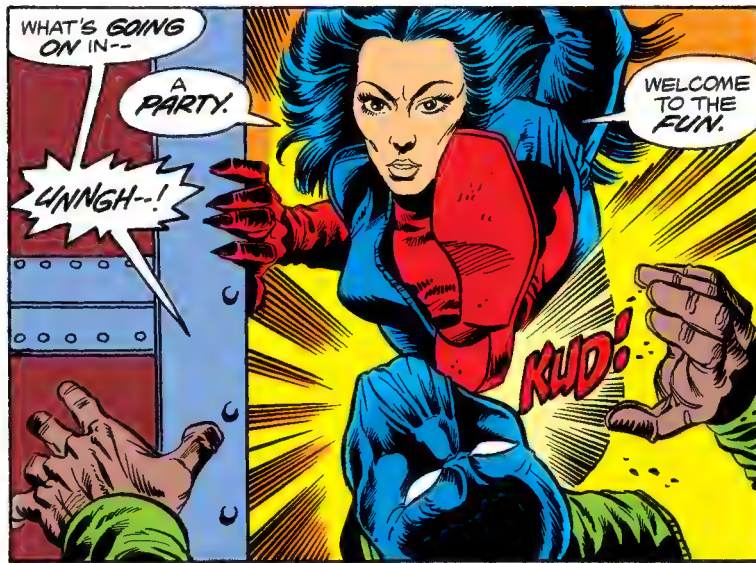
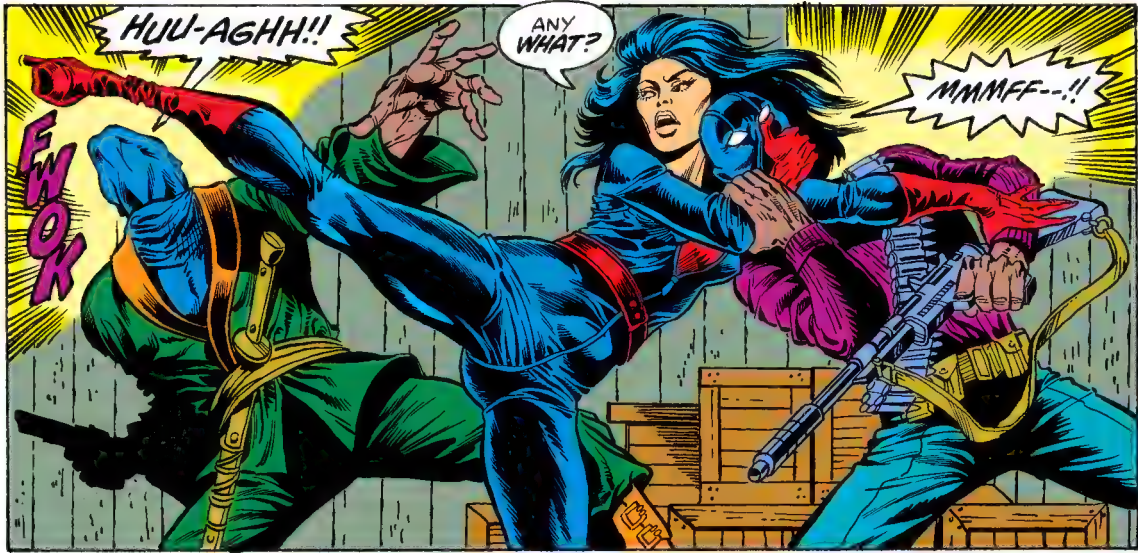
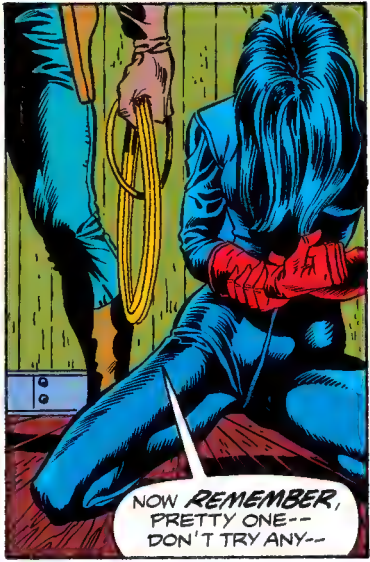
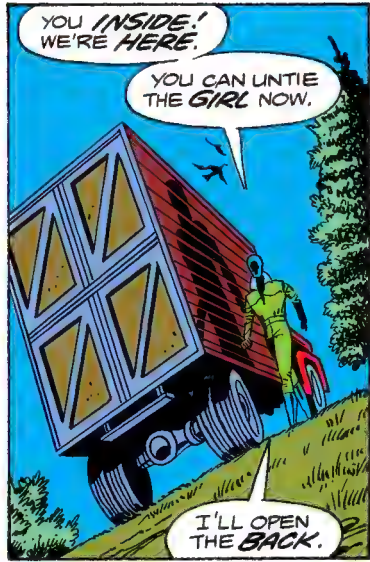
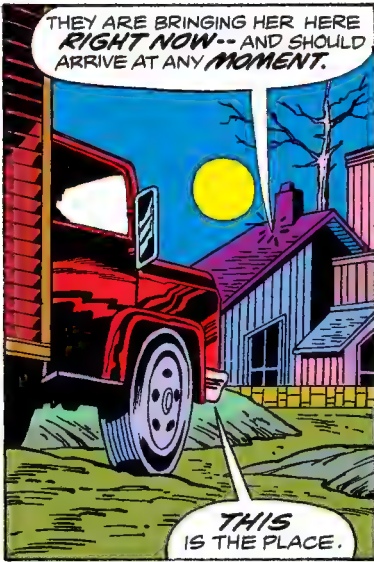
YOU'RE LOSING YOUR NERVE, BECOMING CARELESS.

THUS, BEFORE YOU DIVULGE ANY MORE INFORMATION, BEAR IN MIND THAT MY BROTHER HAS NOT YET DECIDED TO JOIN OUR CAUSE.

BESIDES, I AM NOT YET READY TO LEAVE. THERE IS STILL THE MATTER OF LEIKO WU, WHO MAY HAVE INFORMATION CONCERNING MY FATHER'S PLAN WHICH EVEN WE DO NOT POSSESS...

AND WE SHALL KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT VERY SHORTLY.

...IF SHE WAS TAKEN ALIVE.

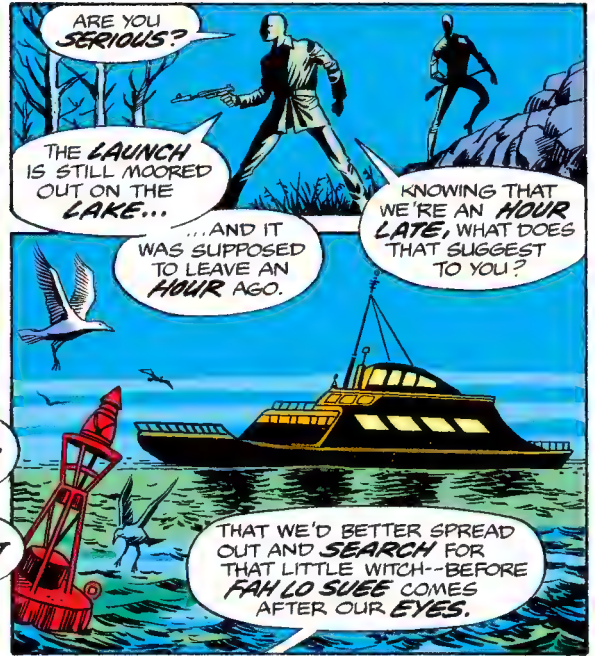




TOO DARK TO SEE ANYTHING.

MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST CLAIM WE HAD TO **SNUFF** HER.

MAYBE SHE ISN'T ALL THAT **IMPORTANT** TO FAH LO SUEE.



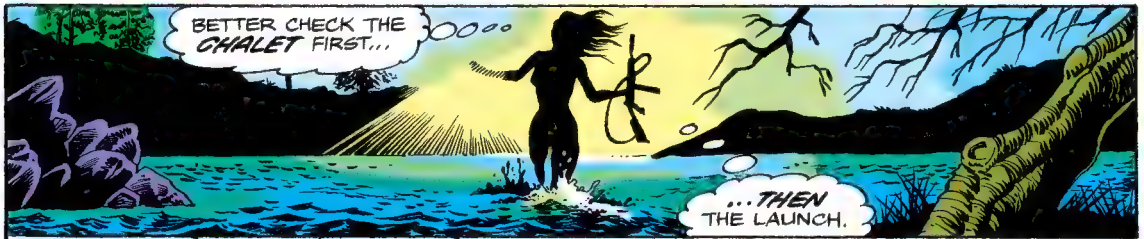
ARE YOU SERIOUS?

THE **LAUNCH** IS STILL MOORED OUT ON THE **LAKE...**

...AND IT WAS SUPPOSED TO LEAVE AN **HOURL** AGO.

KNOWING THAT WE'RE AN **HOURL** LATE, WHAT DOES THAT SUGGEST TO YOU?

THAT WE'D BETTER SPREAD OUT AND **SEARCH** FOR THAT LITTLE WITCH--BEFORE **FAH LO SUEE** COMES AFTER OUR **EYES**.



BETTER CHECK THE **CHALET** FIRST...

...THEN THE **LAUNCH**.



YES, NAYLAND, YOU'RE IN **GOOD HANDS** WITH **ME** WATCHING OVER--



I WOULDN'T DO THAT, DR. PETRIE.

EH--? LARNER?!



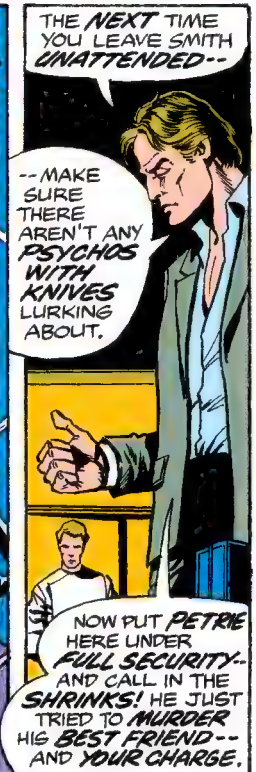
NOT IF I WERE YOU.

WUK



INTERNS! NURSES! IDIOTS! GET IN HERE!!

WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S **WRONG**?!



THE **NEXT** TIME YOU LEAVE SMITH **UNATTENDED--**

--MAKE SURE THERE AREN'T ANY **PSYCHOS** WITH **KNIVES** LURKING ABOUT.

NOW PUT **PETRIE** HERE UNDER **FULL SECURITY**-- AND CALL IN THE **SHRINKS**! HE JUST TRIED TO **MURDER** HIS **BEST FRIEND**-- AND **YOUR CHARGE**.

--VERY WELL, TARRANT, FOR MY PATIENCE HAS **ALSO** ENDED.

WE SHALL **FORGET** LEIKO WU, AND LEAVE **IMMEDIATELY**.

SO, MY BROTHER, FOR THE **FINAL TIME**-- WILL YOU **JOIN** OUR CAUSE?

"RESTON STEPS FORWARD-- **EAGERLY**."

NO NEED TO **RUSH** THINGS DARLIN'-- WE WERE JUST **WEIGHING THE CONSEQUENCES**.

BUT **OF COURSE** WE'LL JOIN UP.

NO!! HEAR ME, MY SISTER-- ALL EVIL CAUSES CLAIM TO BE **GOOD**. I HAVE ALREADY JOINED **MANY** SUCH CAUSES-- AND ALL WERE IN SOME WAY **EVIL**.

I AM **FINISHED** WITH IT! I WILL **NEVER** JOIN YOU!

CHI, YOU **IDOT**-- **ANYTHING** TO **BUY TIME**!

SILENCE, RESTON!

SHE SNEERS, AND IT IS UGLY.

INDEED. **BOTH** OF YOU SHALL BE **SILENCED**...

...FOR YOU HAVE **MADE** YOUR DECISION, LITTLE SPIRIT... AND YOU ARE NO LONGER MY **BROTHER**.

THESE TWO **EXPEDITERS!** YOU WILL **STAY BEHIND**, AND WHEN YOU HAVE GIVEN TARRANT AND ME ENOUGH TIME TO **BOARD THE LAUNCH**...

...YOU WILL **MURDER** MR. RESTON AND HIS **FRIEND**.

"AND WHEN MY SISTER WAS **GONE**, CRUEL **TAUNTS** HISS FROM **BLACK MASKS**..."

WE'VE HEARD MUCH ABOUT HOW **TOUGH** YOU ARE, SHANG-CHI--

--THE **POWERFUL** FU MANCHU'S **SON**--

--AND SUCH A GREAT **MASTER** OF GUNG FU. BUT YOUR **REPUTATION** WILL DO YOU **LITTLE GOOD**, TOUGH MAN, WHEN YOU LIE IN A POOL OF YOUR **OWN BLOOD**... IN LESS THAN **TWO MIN**--

THAT'S ENOUGH.

"**LEIKO!!** THEN SHE IS **NOT** DEAD!"

JUST **FREEZE** WHERE YOU ARE AND ACT LIKE **STATUES**.

I'M NERVOUS ENOUGH AS IT **IS**-- AND MY FINGER'S READY TO TREMBLE ON THE **SLIGHTEST** NOTICE.



NOW-- DROP YOUR WEAPONS LIKE GOOD LITTLE EXPEDITORS.

WHY *SHOULD* WE?-- WHEN YOU CAN HIT ONLY *ONE* OF US...

... BEFORE THE *OTHER* KILLS EITHER *RESTON* OR *SHANG CHI*.

A *STALE-MATE*, THEN.



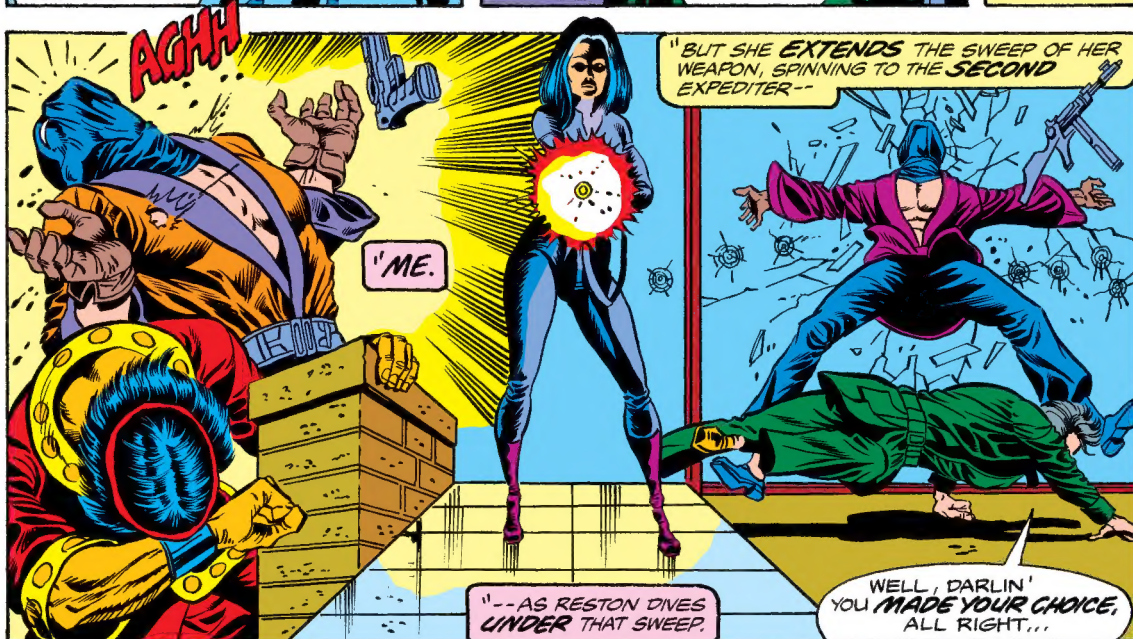
WELL, *GO ON*, DARLIN'; YOU CAN SAVE *ONE* OF US, AT LEAST.

GO ON AND *MAKE* YOUR CHOICE--

--IF YOU HAVEN'T MADE IT *ALREADY*.



"WHO... WILL... SHE..."



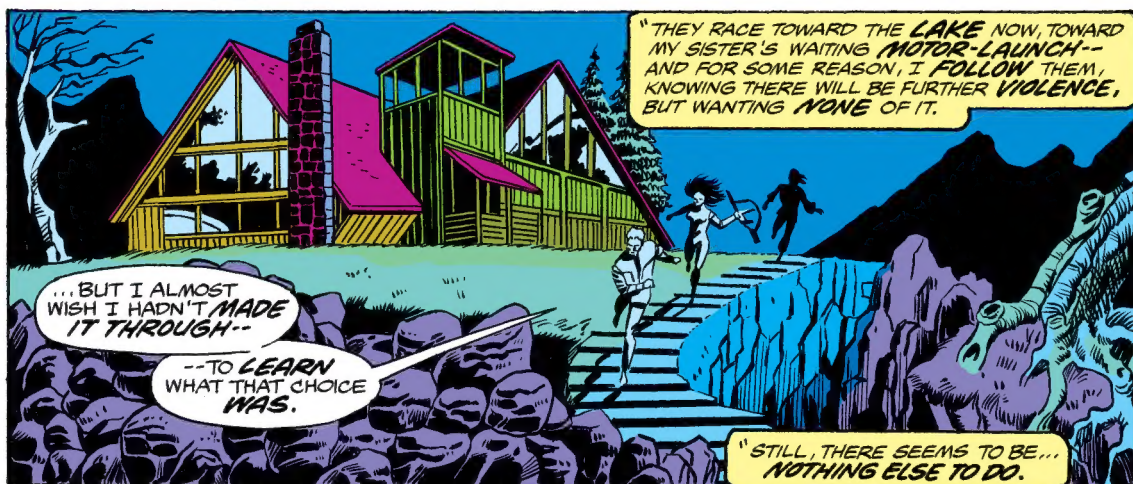
AGHH

"ME."

"BUT SHE *EXTENDS* THE SWEEP OF HER WEAPON, SPINNING TO THE *SECOND* EXPEDITER--

--AS RESTON DIVES UNDER THAT SWEEP.

WELL, DARLIN' YOU *MADE YOUR CHOICE*, ALL RIGHT...



"THEY RACE TOWARD THE *LAKE* NOW, TOWARD MY SISTER'S WAITING *MOTOR-LAUNCH*-- AND FOR SOME REASON, I *FOLLOW* THEM, KNOWING THERE WILL BE FURTHER *VIOLENCE*, BUT WANTING *NONE* OF IT.

... BUT I ALMOST WISH I HADN'T MADE IT THROUGH--

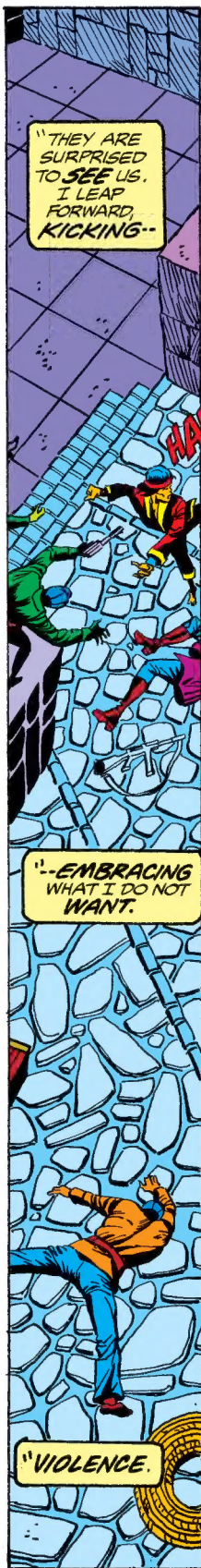
--TO *LEARN* WHAT THAT CHOICE WAS.

"STILL, THERE SEEMS TO BE... NOTHING ELSE TO DO."



SHANG-CHI!
BEHIND
YOU!!

NO--CAN'T
FIRE IN
TIME!



"THEY ARE
SURPRISED
TO *SEE* US.
I LEAP
FORWARD,
KICKING--

"--EMBRACING
WHAT I DO NOT
WANT.

"VIOLENCE.



UNNFFF!!

HAI!
CHUD

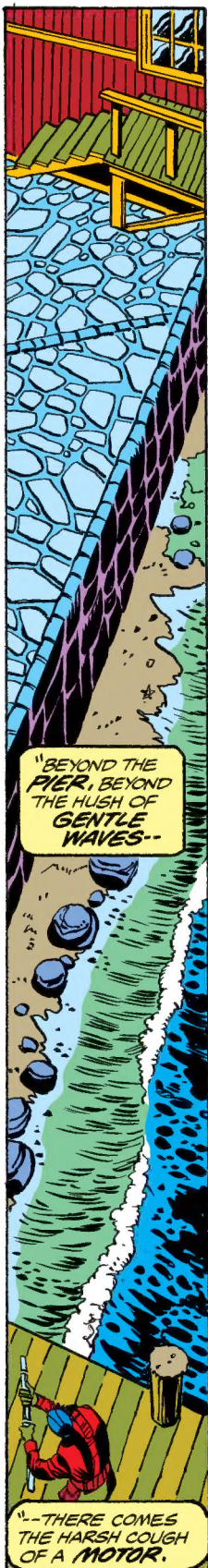
THAT'S RIGHT,
DARLIN'. WORRY
ABOUT *CHI*! OLD
CLIVE CAN TAKE
CARE OF HIM-
SELF!

BRAM



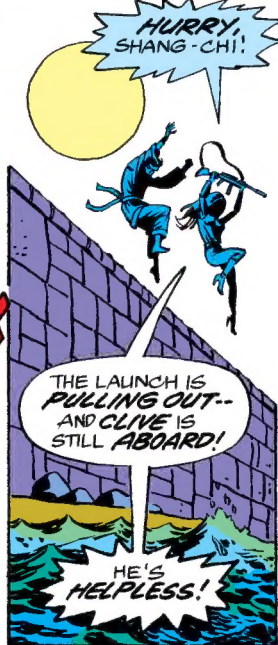
THEY'RE
STILL
ALIVE?!!

STOP
THEM!!



"BEYOND THE
PIER. BEYOND
THE HUSH OF
GENTLE
WAVES--

"--THERE COMES
THE HARSH COUGH
OF A *MOTOR*.



"I REPEAT: I HAVE WANTED NONE OF THIS! I HAVE WANTED ONLY TO TURN MY BACK ON IT! BUT IT HAS BEEN FORCED ON ME AND I WILL DEAL WITH IT IN WHATEVER WAYS I CAN. ALL IS CONFUSION. IF TARRANT IS GRISWOLD, THEN WHAT OF DUCHARME, LEFT IN HIS CARE? IF PETRIE IS MY FATHER'S AGENT, THEN WHAT OF SMITH? AND IF RESTON IS DEAD, THEN WHAT OF LEIKO... AND ME? I KNOW NONE OF THE ANSWERS, BUT AT THIS MOMENT-- I AM A DEMON OF ANGER!"

NEXT ISSUE:
PART TWO:
THE
SPIDER Spell!!

MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

56 MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Dear Doug and Paul,

Issue #42 of MASTER OF KUNG FU was another great issue, with artwork and writing both maturing handsomely. A few words about each...

Doug Moench is rapidly becoming one of my all-time favorite writers at Marvel. As far as I'm concerned, he has now put at least two titles on the path to stardom (KA-ZAR being the other). I've long enjoyed his imaginative use of flashbacks, but "The Clock of Shattered Time" is certainly the artistic culmination of this particular storytelling device. Seeing the action and the progressive development leading up to the action—simultaneously—was a stroke of genius. The effect conveyed is a feeling of action from cover to cover, but without the sacrifice of a gripping and intricate story development.

As for the artwork, I have some sound advice for Paul Gulacy: "Keep it up." And, for readers and collectors: "Hold on to these comics!" Although there are isolated comics scripts which have rated special merit in the past, the artwork seems to have a more profound effect on the collection value of individual comics. Neal Adams, Jim Steranko, and Barry Smith are immediate examples. And right now I feel that Marvel has three artists who are currently producing future collector's items. Paul Gulacy is one; Jim Starlin and Craig Russell are the others.

In closing, I eagerly await the next Moench & Gulacy issue of MASTER OF KUNG FU.

Rook Jones
3053 Tremont St.
Allentown, PA 18104

Thanks, Rook. Paul replies: "Whaddaya mean, *future collector's items*--? Collect 'em *NOW!!!*"

And Doug is extremely gratified by your perceptive analysis of his experimental "flashforward" — not flashback — technique in "The Clock of Shattered Time." Your particular reaction to the somewhat unorthodox device is precisely what Doug was hoping to evince — and judging by the mail he seems to have succeeded. But he's still a little bugged about it all; the next letter and our reply will explicate...

Dear Marvel,

The credits for MOKF #42 say "Moench & Gulacy, Storytellers." That's the beef. The *storytelling*.

Not the story. And not the fine artwork. The splash page, though hardly original, was nonetheless magnificent. Indeed, the story, plot, and artwork were not only above the high Marvel standards, but even above the higher MOKF standards.

No, the beef is with the method chosen for *telling* the story. It was, to me at least, vastly confusing. True, I've read *more* confusing stories — but not when all the elements were present, as in this story, or when the plot was logical, as the plot for this book was.

It reminded me of trying to read a 3-D mag without glasses, the kind with two completely different stories, one red and one blue.

Experiment or not, it didn't work for me.

Mark R. Kausch
2125 North Ave. #5
Sacramento, CA 95838

And that's why Doug is just a little bugged by it all. Oh, he still feels his flashforward technique was a good idea — for those who *understood* it. But for the casual — or younger — reader, unversed in the peculiarly idiosyncratic storytelling "grammar" and technique of comics...well, he ain't so sure. Indeed, even some of our more sophisticated readers (such as you, Mark) who eventually "figured the story out" were burdened with something Doug has always sought to avoid —

namely, confusion (even if only *temporary* confusion). Thus, the Devil-May-Care Lad has no choice but to reluctantly chalk up the flashforward aspect of #42 as a partial failure. But he's trying harder all the time, People!

To Paul,

The splash page of MASTER OF KUNG FU #42 hit me like a cold slap! Dali or not, it's the best splash I've seen in a long time!!

Mars Okonske
Pemi Hall, P.S.C.
Plymouth, NH 03264

((All right already, Gulacy--! So you were *right* about that furshlugginer splash page! We never *denied* it was a beaut — and we *still* hint that it'd sure look spiffy framed & mounted over our mantel...))

My Dear Mr. Moench,

I have come to the conclusion that Clive Reston's great-uncle was Sherlock Holmes while his father, in all probability, was James Bond. The following statements by Reston have led me to this inevitable conclusion: first, as to his great-uncle on his mother's side...

"He was a good man, my great-uncle." "Considerably more intellectual than my father." "He was exceptionally fond of the violin. He played it to all hours of the night, claiming it helped him think. And judging from the results he managed to achieve, I'm inclined to..." "My great-uncle would consider it an *elementary* matter." (All of the preceding from GIANT-SIZE MASTER OF KUNG FU #3.)

In MASTER OF KUNG FU #32, in reference to Shang-Chi: "He is an enigma, all right. Reminds me of my great-uncle in a way...both were thinkers...but both men of action, too. And both very complex."

All this, plus Reston's manner of smoking a very Sherlockian pipe, and his analytical thinking (best displayed in G-S MOKF #3), seem conclusive to me.

As for Reston's father, the evidence is a bit less conclusive; I'm less familiar with James Bond than with Sherlock Holmes, and it's therefore likely that many clues and statements go right over my head. However...

In G-S MOKF #3, Reston tells us: "He was a good man, my father — the best special operative Her Majesty ever enlisted. He rated a license to kill..." In MOKF #29, Reston says: "As my father would say, 'Live and let live'...or *die*, as the case may be." And from #28: "As my father used to say...all cats are grey." (While this last one means nothing to me, I have a feeling it would to a real James Bond fan.)

Well, Doug, what do you say? Surely Reston's English background bears out both theories as being possible. Also, I understand from various letter columns that you're both a James Bond and Sherlock Holmes fan. So...am I *right*?

Larry Feldman
1445 E. 102 St.
Brooklyn, NY 11236

Shortly after receiving the preceding letter, the following came to our attention...

To Doug Moench!

That does it! I've got you now! You *must* admit it; that line in MOKF #42 is the absolute giveaway. "The game is near afoot," indeed! There is now no doubt in my mind that Clive Reston's great-uncle was Sherlock Holmes and that his father was probably James Bond.

Larry Feldman
(same address)

Doug, as usual, says *he'll* never tell. But he also says you missed about half of 'em, Larry.

NEXT ISSUE: Part Two of our awesome FU MANCHU Magnum-Opus! THE SPIDER SPELL! And until it hits the stands with the force of a hurricane...be good.